REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 1-27 are pending in the Application after entry of this amendment.
- Claims 1-27 stand rejected by the Examiner.
- Applicant has amended Claims 1, 4, 11, 14, 20, 21 and 22.

Telephone Interview

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview held 6/14/2005. During that interview, the Examiner agreed that support for claim amendments made in an Office Action Response dated 2/17/2005 are fully supported in the specification. The Examiner agreed to withdraw the related 35 USC §112 rejections. Applicant's undersigned representative also suggested a claim amendment change that could distinguish the present claims from the cited prior art. That amendment is provided as a part of this submittal.

Claim rejection Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102

In an Office Action dated 6/2/2005, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 11-13, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US. Pat. No. 6,721,736 to Krug et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the §102(e) rejection.

Krug et al. discloses a method performed by a meta search engine. The meta search engine uses the search response from a multiplicity of different primary search engines and extracts, using an interface, search results from those primary engines to provide a multiplicity of hits to a user. The method comprises automatically adapting the interface to new search response forms from the primary search engines (Krug et al., Abstract, Figure 2).

Applicant have amended independent Claims 1, 11 and 21 to recite that a hierarchical structure defines a plurality of layers. The plurality of layers is mapped to areas on the display and a layer data item is displayed only after receiving a user-selected location. Applicant finds support for this amendment on page 7 lines 5-11 which outlines an embodiment of the hierarchy organized as a layer. Figure 2 provides support that an item is not displayed until after receiving a location from a pointing device operated by a user.

Applicants submit that Krug et al. does not teach or suggest the display of a layer item or a digital content item only after a user-selected location is received.

Since Krug et al. fails to teach or suggest that a location on a display is user-selected and that a layer item is displayed only after a user-selected location is received, it cannot anticipate amended independent Claims 1, 11 and 21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection and submits that amended independent Claims 1, 11 and 21 patentably define over the cited art.

Further, since dependent Claims 2-3 and 12-13 are dependent on independent Claims 1 and 11 respectively, dependent Claims 2-3 and 12-13 likewise patentably define over the cited art. Applicant also respectfully requests withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection on these dependent claims.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Dependent Claims 4-5, 14-15 and 22-23 stand rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,721,736 to Krug et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,691,108 to Li. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Krug et al. discloses a method performed by a meta search engine. The meta search engine uses the search response from a multiplicity of different primary search engines and extracts, using an interface, search results from those primary engines to provide a multiplicity of hits to a user. The method comprises automatically adapting the interface to new search response forms from the primary search engines (Krug et al., Abstract, Figure 2).

Li discloses a method to crawl vast search spaces including markup language documents. Topic distillation and site distillation methodologies are incorporated into the focused search strategy. Categorizations of search results may be initiated by the search engine itself or categories may be specified in conjunction with the original request for information (Li, Abstract).

Applicants have amended dependent Claims 4-5, 14-15 and 22-23 to more clearly recite aspects of Applicant's invention. Specifically, display locations are user-selected and layer data items are displayed only after the user-selected location is received.

Applicants submit that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made with respect to amended Claims 4-5, 14-15 and 22-23 because the cited references lack the

limitation of displaying layer data items after a user selected location is received. Applicants submit that neither Krug et al. nor Li teach or suggest displaying a layer data item after a user-selected display location is received. Accordingly, neither Krug et al. nor Li, either alone or in combination, can render amended Claims 4-5, 14-15, and 22-23 obvious.
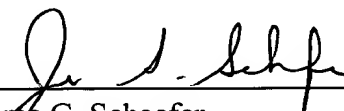
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection and reconsideration of amended Claims 4-5, 14-15 and 22-23 as these pending claims patentably define over the cited art.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the present application is in a condition for allowance upon entry of the amendments herein. Applicants earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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